

Substitute for Form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

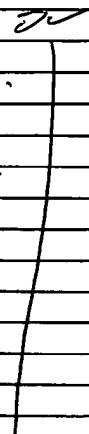
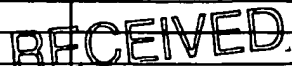
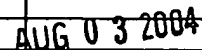
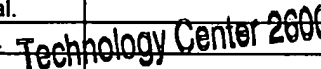

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Application Number | 09/751,792 |
| Filing Date | December 29, 2000 |
| First Named Inventor: | Kent Wendorf |
| Art Unit | 2661 |
| Examiner Name | Vincent, David Robert |
| Attorney Docket Number | 81862P239 |

Sheet 1 Of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--|---|--|--------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
|  | | us- | 5,224,099 | 6/29/1993 | Corbalis et al. |    |
| | | us- | 5,313,454 | 5/14/1994 | Bustini et al. | |
| | | us- | 5,359,592 | 10/25/1994 | Heitkamp et al. | |
| | | us- | 5,436,891 | 7/25/1995 | Grossman et al. | |
| | | us- | 5,835,494 | 11/10/1998 | Hughes et al. | |
| | | us- | 5,838,915 | 11/17/1998 | Klausmeier et al. | |
| | | us- | 6,002,667 | 12/14/1999 | Manning et al. | |
| | | us- | 6,034,945 | 3/7/2000 | Hughes et al. | |
| | | us- | 6,061,348 | 5/9/2000 | Castrigno et al. | |
| | | us- | 6,088,736 | 7/11/2000 | Manning et al. | |
| | | us- | 6,526,060 | 2/25/2003 | Hughes et al. | |
| | | us- | 6,535,484 | 3/18/2003 | Hughes et al. | |
| | | us- | 6,424,624 B1 | 7/23/2002 | Galand et al. | |
| | | us- | 6,445,707 B1 | 9/3/2002 | Iuoras et al. | |
| |  | | us- | 6,512,743 B1 | 1/28/2003 | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|----------|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered | 11/18/04 |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|----------|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SENT FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

